

**Meeting of the SAB Committee on Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems And Services  
(CVPESS)**

**Draft Agenda -- January 25-26, 2004**

**Woodies Building, 1025 F Street, N.W., SAB Large Conference Room, Room 3705  
Washington, DC 20004**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the meeting is for the Committee to conduct an advisory on the EPA's draft *Ecological Benefits Assessment Strategic Plan (EBASP)* and to discuss issues concerning methods for valuing the protection of ecological systems and services. All of these activities are related to the Committee's overall charge, to assess Agency needs and the state of the art and science of valuing protection of ecological systems and services, and then to identify key areas for improving knowledge, methodologies, practice, and research.

**January 25, 2004**

9:00 - 9:10	Welcome	Dr. Angela Nugent, EPA, SABSO Dr. Anthony Maciorowski, EPA, SABSO
9:10 - 9:20	Review of Agenda and Introduction of Members	Dr. Domenico Grasso, Chair
	Introduction to the Charge Questions and to the Review Process and Writing Team	
9:20 - 10:10	Presentation on EBASP Vision and Measuring Success	Agency Representative  Committee Questions
10:00 - 10:30	Preliminary Comments	Drs. Robert Huggett , V. Kerry Smith
10:30 - 10:45	Break	
10:30 - 12:00	Discussion of Charge Question 1 <sup>1</sup>	

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<sup>1</sup> Charge Question 1: "Given the audience described in Section 1.4., does the Plan adequately address the objectives described in Section 1.1.?"

Agency Statement of Objectives (section 1.1)

- Describe technical and institutional issues that prevent the Agency from conducting accurate and comprehensive ecological benefit assessments.
- Direction for future research, data collection and development of analytical tools.
- Propose activities to foster increased collaboration and coordination among Agency's ecologists, economists, and other analysts in ecological benefits assessment.
- Propose institutional mechanisms to facilitate adaptive implementation of plan and adjustment to reflect scientific progress.

12:00 - 1:15	Lunch	
1:15-1:30	Public Comment	TBA
1:15 - 2:15	Discussion of Charge Question 2 <sup>2</sup>	
2:15 -3:30	Discussion of Charge Questions 3 <sup>3</sup> and 4 <sup>4</sup>	
3:30 -3:45	Break	
3:45 -4:30	Discussion of Charge Question 5 <sup>5</sup>	
4:30 -5:00	Discussion of Charge Question 6 <sup>6</sup>	
5:00 - 5:15	Discussion of Next Steps	

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Agency Description of Audience for Strategic Plan (Section 1.4)

- EPA managers and analysts who devote time or other resources toward basic or applied research in areas of ecology, related natural sciences and economics relevant to ecological benefit assessment.
- EPA analysts developing action plans to guide future investments in ecological benefits assessment.
- Researchers in academia, other federal agencies and members of public -- to inform about EPA's need and objectives

<sup>2</sup> Charge Question 2: "Are the issues described in Section 4 the most important ones that EPA should address to improve its ability to identify, quantify, and value the ecological benefits of its activities? If not, what issues should be added?" .

<sup>3</sup> Charge Question 3: Are there actions in Section 4 that are the most important for EPA to undertake at this time to improve its ability to conceptualize, identify, quantify, and value the ecological benefits of its activities? do the actions respond to the identified issues? Are there actions that are missing?

<sup>4</sup> Charge Question 4: Are there other actions you would recommend?

<sup>5</sup> Charge Question 5: Are there specific research approaches, or research projects, on which the Agency should focus?

<sup>6</sup> Charge Question 6: Is the proposed implementation plan adequate?

**January 26, 2004**

8:30-8:35	Opening of Meeting	Dr. Angela Nugent, EPA, SABSO
8:35-9:05	Update on C-VPESW Workplan	Dr. Domenico Grasso
9:05-9:15	Review of Agenda and Discussion of C-VPESW Approach to Methods Evaluation <sup>7</sup>	Dr. Domenico Grasso
9:15-10:30	C-VPESW Evaluation of Economic Methods and the NRC Report, <i>Valuing Ecosystem Services; Toward Better Environmental Decision Making</i>	Dr. Stephen Polasky and Dr. Kathleen Segerson (introduction) Commenters: Dr. A. Myrick Freeman Dr. Robert Costanza Dr. William Ascher
10:30-10:45	Break	Committee Discussion
10:45-12:00	Ecological Benefit Indicators	Dr. James Boyd
12:00 -1:15	Lunch	Committee Discussion
1:15 -2:30	Landscape, Biophysical, and Ecological Function Methods	Dr. Dennis Grossman
2:30 - 3:00	Discussion of Strategies for Addressing Additional Methods	Committee Discussion
3:00 - 4:00	Discussion of Committee Plans for Addressing Cross-Cutting Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Quality and Uncertainty</li> <li>• Substitutability/Transferability</li> <li>• Spatial Scale</li> <li>• Temporal Scale</li> <li>• Public Involvement and "Whose Values Count"</li> </ul>	
4:30-5:15	Summary of Next Steps	
	Adjourn	

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<sup>7</sup> C-VPESW Approach to Methods Evaluation: first to consider economic methods discussed in the NRC Report; then to consider Ecological Benefit Indicators and Landscape, Biophysical, and Ecological Function Methods at the January 26, 2005 meeting; to discuss Multi-Attribute Analysis at a future meeting; and to have the Committee discuss on January 26 whether and how to identify and review additional methods.